



MEMORANDUM
Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County, Florida
(305) 375-5126
(305) 375-2484 FAX
www.miami-dadeclerk.com

RTC
Agenda Item No. 6 (A)

TO: Honorable Chairman Carlos Gimenez
and members of the Regional Transportation Committee

DATE: September 21, 2006

FROM: Kay M. Sullivan
Director, Clerk of the Board Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Commission
Committee Minutes

The Office of Clerk of the Board is submitting the following Clerk's Summary of Meeting Minutes for approval by the Regional Transportation Committee:

❖ May 5, 2006

Attachment
KMS/fgr



Stephen P. Clark
Government Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

CLERK'S SUMMARY OF

Meeting Minutes

Regional Transportation Committee

Carlos A. Gimenez (7) Chair; Katy Sorenson (8) Vice Chair; Commissioners Sally A. Heyman (4), Dennis C. Moss (9), Dorrin D. Rolle (2), and Rebeca Sosa (6)

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Friday, May 5, 2006

9:00 AM

THIRD FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present: Carlos A. Gimenez, Sally A. Heyman, Katy Sorenson.

Members Absent: Dennis C. Moss, Dorrin D. Rolle, Rebeca Sosa.

Members Late: None.

Members Excused: None.

1A INVOCATION

1B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1C ROLL CALL

Report: *In addition to the members of the committee present at today's meeting, the following staff support was also present:*

- Assistant County Manager Dr. Carlos Bonzon
- Miami-Dade Transit Director Roosevelt Bradley
- Deputy Director of Administration Mayra Bustamante
- Deputy Clerk Flora Real

2 FY 2006-2007 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REPORTS

2A

061324 Report
MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT (MDT)***Presented***

Report: *Ms. Bustamante made a presentation on the departmental budgetary issues for the current fiscal year and the budget priorities for FY2006-07 on behalf of the Miami-Dade Transit Director, noting that the department had been working in conjunction with the Commission Auditor and the Office of Strategic Business Management (OSBM) in the preparation of the budget projections. She stated that the department had also been reviewing and implementing cost savings efficiencies to bring the current year's projections within budget.*

Following Chairman Gimenez's remarks regarding the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) funds, Ms. Bustamante explained that the budget was balanced by implementing cost savings efficiencies such as personnel and overtime reductions, reduced fuel costs realized from the use of new buses, and the elimination of inefficient and/or duplicate Metrobus routes.

In response to Chairman Gimenez's inquiry regarding the implementation of cost savings efficiencies, Ms. Bustamante presented a report outlining Metrobus routes changes already implemented. She explained the recommended changes and noted that the Metrobus service would remain at 38 million revenue miles, which included the additional 3.6 revenue mile implemented this fiscal year and the 1.9 revenue mile implemented in November 2005. She noted that it was difficult to determine the exact ridership for each Metrobus route because the existing bus system was obsolete; therefore, it had been determined that no additional Metrobus route or service efficiencies would be implemented until the new system was in place. She stated that MDT would continue to assess Metrobus service to ensure the efficiency/effectiveness of the service to include the grid system.

Ms. Bustamante explained how costs were recovered from the PTP and how MDT utilized those funds. She noted that the PTP was charged by a fully allocated mile, which included the costs for bus operators, the mechanics, the direct supervision, and administrative costs.

Following discussion on the rationale for billing the PTP based on a fully allocated mile formula versus an allocated mile, Ms. Bustamante advised that the department would have the reallocation formula reviewed by a consultant in conjunction with the CITT members and MDT's staff.

Chairman Gimenez asked that the Commission Auditor be asked to participate in the process to review the formula and that he be briefed on the outcome of the review.

Assistant County Manager Bonzon advised that the CITT's consultant would be asked to participate in the review process.

In response to Chairman Gimenez's inquiry regarding the timeframe for the implementation of improvements in Metrobus routes, Mr. Roosevelt Bradley noted that the installation of all improvements would begin by October 2007 with a completion deadline of December 2007.

Following discussion regarding the efficiencies identified to streamline the operations of the Metrobus routes, Assistant County Manager Bonzon noted that he and Mr. Bradley would meet on a monthly basis to review the budget to ensure all previously established goals and objectives were met.

Discussion ensued in connection with fraudulent Metrobus passes and the procedure to prosecute individuals caught misusing those passes, how to prevent senior citizens from selling their passes to others, and whether the number of authorized points of distribution for the passes was sufficient.

Commissioner Heyman suggested that the penalties applicable to activities relating to fraudulent public transportation passes be posted at all authorized distribution dealers and on the outside of all buses.

Discussion ensued in connection with legislation enacted in other states applicable to the misuse of transit passes.

Following discussion, Commissioner Heyman asked that the installation of the new Metrobus fare collection boxes be expedited and completed before October 2007.

Following discussion regarding the Metrobus routes changes recommended for implementation,

Commissioner Heyman suggested that Mr. Bradley conduct an analysis to identify the reasons for low ridership in the Metrobus routes recommended to be discontinued.

Mr. Bradley responded that the findings of an analysis performed by MDT indicated that the patrons of the Metrobus routes with low ridership wanted express service; therefore, that service would be added to the Metrobus service in Commission District 4 with a maximum of five stops per route.

Following discussion on how to discourage the use of cars, Chairman Gimenez asked that Mr. Bradley review the number and locations of bus stops and how to better accommodate patrons while waiting for the bus to include simply designed bus shelters like the grid system.

In regards to Commissioner Heyman's remarks regarding the insufficient number of bus benches and shelters in significant bus transfer sites within Commission District 4, particularly the 163rd Mall, Mr. Bradley advised that he would address those problems in that area.

In connection with the ordinance establishing the requirements for the issuance of the Golden Passport, Chairman Gimenez asked that the ordinance be revisited to prevent anyone under age 55 from acquiring a Golden Passport to allow only the elderly and disabled persons to use the passport. He also asked that, in the future, the members of the committee be apprised immediately of any unintended consequences an enacted legislation may cause.

Ms. Bustamante provided an overview of the FY2006-07 budgetary priorities, noting that the proposed budget assumed fuel at \$2.15 and fuel price was steadily increasing. She stated that the proposed budget for next fiscal year also included a reduction of 158 positions, mostly administrative, to streamline operations.

Following discussion on the price of fuel and circumstances impacting its price, Chairman Gimenez requested that the department identify a conservative price for fuel to estimate countywide fuel costs and create a fuel stabilization fund.

Following discussion on the issue of overtime, Mr. Bradley noted that the Transportation Workers Union (TWU) contract had been changed to

curtail overtime pay.

Assistant County Manager Bonzon asked that Mr. Bradley explore the issue of bus idling.

Following Ms. Bustamante's explanation of the budgetary line items for the proposed FY2006-07 budget, Chairman Gimenez asked that she and the Commission Auditor meet to review the methodology used to derive the projections for ridership revenues.

Following discussion on the Special Transportation System (S.T.S.) service and the operational costs of the program, the following recommendations were made:

1. Commissioner Heyman suggested that the vehicle design be reviewed to better accommodate the needs of the S.T.S. riders to increase ridership;
2. Chairman Gimenez suggested that Mr. Bradley explore the feasibility of MDT operating the S.T.S. service and whether any cost savings efficiencies would be realized by implementing this initiative; and
3. Commissioner Heyman asked that Mr. Bradley explore the feasibility of accommodating S.T.S. patrons in the new buses.

Following discussion regarding the cost savings already implemented in the S.T.S. service and the charges imposed on those services, Ms. Bustamante advised that a copy of the S.T.S. service contracts would be provided to the committee members for their review prior to making any recommendations to have those fees changed.

Mr. Bradley advised that he would review the issue of providing the S.T.S. service based on a zone system as suggested by Commissioner Heyman.

Discussion ensued in connection with whether the two S.T.S. service contracts could be unified.

Commissioner Heyman asked that Mr. Bradley explore how other states complied with federal regulations and how riders could be accommodated in the Metrobus service, particularly the elderly or disabled, in order to consider alternative measures.

After expressing his concerns for how the PTP funds were reflected in the proposed FY2006-07

budget, Chairman Gimenez asked to be provided with a copy of the proforma to recover costs from the PTP.

3 ADJOURNMENT

Report: *There being no other business to come before the committee, the workshop meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.*